



From the Becarevic Collection

Recollections of Exploration and Voyage



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REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

Travellers' narratives never cease to ignite the imagination...

The early explorers – those filling in the blank spaces on the map – were the rock stars and celebrities of their time. Sea voyages were dangerous and successful expeditions guaranteed a place in society and history books. Drawn from the Becarevic Collection, this exhibition illustrates the evolution of the traveller and the documentation of their journeys and experiences.

Accounts are told through texts, illustrations, and photographs, depicting a view of the world that expanded rapidly through the discoveries of the 18th century. These souvenirs tell us as much about the traveller as they do about the journey: a royally funded expedition to the far corners of the world; a colonial watercolourist looking for commissions; an early freelance photographer with a wagonload of equipment.

There are parallels with our modern travel experience: disasters at sea, unexpected delays, strained relationships, adventures and the unknown. But today's travel is a multibillion dollar industry aligned with leisure and relaxation. It has not always been so...



Grant White
Manager UOW Archives



I have been collecting things all my life. I remember being a student at Shellharbour primary school and we would dig up old pottery ink jars in the playground. I felt linked to a time long past when I held these items. This feeling continued into later years. I still get a feeling of travelling back in time when I view antique objects.

For me, the most memorable item in the collection is the Pringle album. This was purchased some years back from a great great granddaughter of FIA Pringle who travelled from England to sell it in Australia, as she thought it really belonged here. I had the same thought; and I didn't want somebody to purchase it and break it up and sell off the photos individually. I wanted it to stay in Wollongong as a complete album.

I believe that donating my collection to the UOW Library will be of far more benefit than if I held it privately. UOW Archives has the resources to properly care for and preserve such items, which means I can rest assured that the collection will always be at its best. This collection adds culturally significant items to UOW and will be of great value to researchers who hold interest in Exploration, Australiana and Art.



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The Voyage of Governor Phillip to Botany Bay 1789

Book by Govenor Phillip

When Governor Phillip set off on the First Fleet to settle convicts in the Antipodes, he also recorded his expedition for the audience at home. Published accounts of sea voyages were popular literature, and Phillip's daring exploits were read with vigour.

Phillip's *The Voyage of Governor Phillip to Botany Bay*, published in 1789, documents his involvement as the Commander of the First Fleet and first Colonial Governor,

Advertised as the "official version" of his experiences, it includes entries from Lieutenants Shortland, Watts, Ball and Captain Marshall, who each contributed to the success of the voyage of the First Fleet.

A primary goal for Phillip was to establish relations with the local people, the Eora nation, and by his account (despite being speared in the shoulder), he was successful. When Phillip returned to England in 1792 he was accompanied by Bennelong and Yemmerrawanne, though Bennelong returned to his home in 1795.



Flinder's Voyage to Terra Australia 1814

Book by Matthew Flinders

Matthew Flinders' wrote his personal account of his travels in and around Terra Australia while he languished in prison in Mauritius.

Flinders successfully circumnavigated and mapped the continent and was enroute to England when, in 1804, he docked in Mauritius for repairs only to be arrested as a spy.

It was a frustrating wait in gaol: his arrest prevented him from taking part in the war with the French which was then raging in the Channel, meaning he also missed out on the glory and promotion the war brought to his peers.

Like any modern traveller detained in transit, he occupied himself with his journals.

He was eventually allowed to resume his voyage and finally made it back to London in 1810. However, the six years of imprisonment wrecked his career and his health. He died in 1814 shortly before this edition was first published.

FLINDERS
VOYAGE
TO TERRA
AUSTRALIS

VOL. I

F. PHILIP
VOYAGE
AUX TERRES
AUSTRALIENNES

PARTE
II

PHILIP'S
VOYAGE

F. PHILIP
VOYAGE
AUX TERRES
AUSTRALIENNES

PARTE
I

FLINDERS
VOYAGE
TO TERRA
AUSTRALIS

VOL. II

Voyage de Decouvertes, Aux Terres Australes. Historique, 1807

Book by M.F. Peron

Flinders was not the only European adventurer sailing into the unknown. Captain Nicolas Baudin, aboard the French vessel *Le Geographe*, was also mapping the southern coast of New Holland and undertaking scientific inquiries.

Flinders and Baudin met at Encounter Bay in South Australia. Such was the nature of their meeting that Baudin abandoned his mission to map the southern coast of Australia (as Flinders had beat him to it). Baudin died while returning to France in 1803.

Documenting the official account of the voyage fell to Francois Peron, the ship's naturalist. Baudin and Peron had clashed for the entire voyage and their animosity was so pervasive that Peron managed to describe an entire account of the voyage – three volumes in all – without once mentioning his Captain's name.

Peron himself died in 1810 and a further fourth volume was later completed by Louis De Freycinet in 1811.





NOUVELLE - HOLLANDE : NOUVELLE GALLES DU SUD
de l'embouchure de la rivière de Port Jackson
Vue prise par le capitaine Cook, le 29 août 1770

Sydney, 1853

Engravings by Fredrick Terry

Fredrick Terry was an accomplished watercolourist and engraver who was involved with a number of successful commercial collaborations with publishers Sands and Kenny. In the 1850s, keepsake albums comprising views and vistas of the colony were popular gifts.

These albums documented the beginning of a nationalistic pride in the progress and development of the colony.

Terry's painstakingly detailed images were held in high regard. He was one of the first colonial artists, along with Conrad Martens, to exhibit his works in Paris at the 1859 Exhibition. More recently his images have assisted scholars in developing modern perspectives of the colonial development of Sydney, Newcastle and Maitland.

In this edition, through an error of the engraver, Terry's name has been rendered as Fleury.





The 1st or 2nd Bridge

Gurre Kamilaroi 1856

Book by William Ridley,
engravings by W. Mason

It was a common practise of 19th century Christian proselytisers to produce religious books in the languages of the local people. These works were usually translations of Bible passages and are important records of extinct languages and cultures, especially in the linguistically rich Antipodes.

Ridley, a Presbyterian minister arriving in New South Wales in the early 1850s, took on an "itinerant ministry" travelling throughout the New England and Darling Downs districts between 1853 and 1855.

He studied and documented the Kamilaroi, Tjipili and Turrbal languages and upon his return to Sydney, he wrote and published an account of his travels and several books on Aboriginal language. This book was published for the use of Kamilaroi people, primarily for the purposes of religious instruction, and was illustrated with woodcut engravings by Walter G. Mason.





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Sydney International Exhibition, 1879

Official Record of the Sydney International Exhibition

The Sydney International Exhibition of 1879 was the first event of its kind in the southern hemisphere, intending to bring the world to Sydney at a time when the colony was prospering on a wave of gold and wool.

34 countries attended the Exhibition and over 1.1 million people visited it. Sydney was not to see another event of this scale and impact for another 121 years at the Sydney Olympic Games.

Medal - Official Record of the Sydney International Exhibition

Bronze medallions were awarded to commended entries in the Exhibition, however, as the Exhibition was organised in great haste there was not enough time to inscribe the medals with the winners' names.

They were expected to do it themselves.

Photograph album of 26 images by Charles Bayliss for the Sydney International Exhibition

Charles Bayliss was awarded a commendation for his photographs on display at the Sydney International Exhibition. His album included a number of spectacular panoramas of Sydney taken from the Exhibition building's domed roof.

Bayliss began his photographic career as assistant to the nomadic Beaufoy Martin, whose American and Australian photographic company captured rural and regional Victoria in great detail. They were commissioned by Bernhardt Holtermann to produce a series of photographs of NSW and Victoria that promoted the colonies to immigrants.

He is well-known for his early panoramic views of Sydney and NSW, and for documenting the emergence of modern Australia in the second half of the 19th century. His commercial work was informed by a desire to build a "novel means of social and commercial intercourse".

The International Exhibition generated a large amount of documentation, including souvenir editions based on the successful exhibitors.



Street Incidents, 1881

Book by John Thomson and Adolphe Smith

Photography was still a new and fascinating technology in the 1870s when Scottish photographer John Thomson was roaming the globe. After an extensive period travelling through Southeast Asia and China documenting the culture and customs, Thomson returned to Britain.

His portraits of London's squalor were unlike anything seen before and he arguably became the first "street photographer" with this compilation of photographs capturing the poverty and privation of social conditions in the East End.

The photographs in this book were originally featured in the monthly magazine *Street life in London (1877-78)*. Thomson later became the Royal Photographer, setting up a studio in Mayfair, far from the privations of the East End.



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Tourists' Guide to Beautiful Illawarra, 1903

by the South Coast Tourists Association,
John Sands Printer

As the blank spaces in Australian maps were relentlessly filled in, the age of exploration ended and the age of tourism began. As the railways expanded, there came an appetite for short journeys beyond the sprawl of Sydney city.

This guide to the Illawarra was the second in a series that began in 1896. Tourists were encouraged to explore the wonders of the South Coast as far down the train line as the terminus at Bomaderry, and the guide's paid advertisements for guest houses and hotels suggested brighter prospects despite the depression of the 1890s.

Printed in large numbers, inexpensively bound and made to be used and discarded, it's not surprising that few survive today!



Price 6d.
Tourists'
Guide to



Beautiful
Illawarra

WWI Realistic Travel Series, 1914 - 1920

Stereoscope cards

Emerging into the mainstream during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, stereoscopic photography promised the viewer a realistic experience.

Enterprising companies sold sets of images as souvenirs during the First World War as a form of quasi-journalistic documentation of triumphs on the battlefield.

Marketed as a "Realistic Travel Series", they were in fact staged shots believed to be taken in the countryside around London – hundreds of miles from the actual fields of war and fighting, but no less evocative.

In much the same way that people bought 3D televisions in the early 2000s, stereoscopic photographs were a marvel eventually replaced by moving pictures.



Henry Arthur Pringle Album 1887 – 1893

On Saturday 14 April 1888, Henry Pringle was looking for somewhere to live in Wollongong. A bedroom and sitting room were required and, if possible, somewhere for a horse. He had recently arrived to manage the concerns of the Southern Coal Company, which had acquired leases at Mt Kembla.

The Southern Coal Company came late to the exploitation of coal in the colonies. The principles, Lord Kinnaird amongst them, raised 160,000 pounds in capital and sent their man Pringle to set things up in the Illawarra.

Pringle was a young and ambitious engineer. He proposed revolutionary methods to win the coal and ship it – sponsoring the construction of a large jetty at Port Kembla, where the largest ocean vessels could receive coal.

The Pringle Album documents both his professional achievements and his hobbies: photography and horse breeding.

While in Wollongong, Pringle married Maud MacCabe and became an active member of local society. His business dealings were varied and included a number of appearances in court defending compensation claims against the company (and in one case prosecuting a contracted miner who had skipped out prior to buying back his freedom).

Pringle returned home to England a number of times and eventually left the Illawarra permanently around 1893, taking his collection of photographs and his wife Maude with him, to pursue his fortune first in India and then Rhodesia before settling in Longhope, Gloucestershire. Pringle went on to serve in the British Army as a Captain in World War I and died in 1939.

The album provides an unusual and enlightening view of the times. Commercial photographers took most of the surviving historical photographs whereas Pringle was intimately documenting his personal life, friendships and interests. He even appears in many of them.



The same Mount Keira in the background c. 1890
Photograph from the Pringle Album View looking west across Fairy Creek towards Mount Keira
UOW Archives Collection D0279/1/14



UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG ARCHIVES

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UOW Archives holds a wide range of material documenting our local region's history and supporting academic and historical research. The Collection includes rare books, artefacts, documents, oral history recordings, and more. Many of these items are now digitised and can be explored at archivesonline.uow.edu.au

As custodians responsible for the storage, care and accessibility of the UOW Archives Collection, we welcome any support from donors towards the preservation and restoration projects. For further information on how you can get involved, please contact the University of Wollongong's Advancement Division at donations@uow.edu.au



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Cover image:

Voyage de Découvertes Aux Terres Australes, 1807, UOW Archives Beazley Collection D279/282